

## WHO GETS THE MULE?

(Continued from Page 12)

fact that the republican party can not be induced to publish the amount and from whom obtained before the election it would be better if there could be some legislation to the effect that the government should pay the expense of both parties; that would be satisfactory to the majority of the people and both parties would have equal chance to elect a president as far as money is concerned. In reading the republican platforms up to Taft the republican party claims to

have been fighting corruption and graft in high places since the election of Mr. Lincoln, but it is perfectly plain that there has been more of it come to light during the administrations of McKinley and Roosevelt than during any other administration in the last forty-eight years, notwithstanding that the first plank in the Taft platform claims that Theodore Roosevelt has done more to punish wrong doers and establish reforms than any other president living or dead in the United States, even the great McKinley is not mentioned. No, the democratic party has never died yet; it is the oldest party in existence that is now living and will still live because its principles are right and it is only a question of time and they succeed, and be in at the death of all other political parties. I am 75 years old and always a democrat and hope to see another democratic president. It takes a stayer to win and that is what Mr. Bryan is and he will if he lives be the cause of the republican party getting its Waterloo sooner or later."

## BOOKS RECEIVED

The Sky Blue. A tale of the iron horse and of the coming civilization. By Olin J. Ross. Published by the author, 314 Schultz Bldg., Columbus, Ohio. Price \$1.00.

Truth. By E. E. Arner. The Faribault Pilot, Faribault, Minn.

School Reports and School Efficiency. By David S. Snedden, Ph. D. and Wm. H. Allen, Ph. D. For the New York committee on physical welfare of school children. The Macmillan Co., New York. Price \$1.50, net.

The Belle Islers. A novel, by Richard Brinsley Newman. Lothrop, Lee & Shepard Co., Boston, Mass.

New Worlds for Old. By H. G. Wells. The Macmillan Co., New York. Price \$1.50.

The Balanced Life. By Clarence Lathbury. Published by the Nunc Licet Press, Philadelphia, Pa. Price \$1.00; postage 8 cents.

Rights and Riches. By Charles O. McCasland. The Wilbur Publishing Co., Pasadena, Calif.

## MARTIN REPLIES TO ROOSEVELT

J. C. Martin of Dayton, Ohio, the gentleman to whom Mr. Roosevelt addressed his letter of November 2 in which he said the religious views of a president were of no public concern, has replied. Mr. Martin's letter was given to the Associated Press December 20. The Commoner having printed Mr. Roosevelt's letter in full gives Mr. Martin's letter. Here it is:

"To his Excellency, Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.—Dear Sir: Before replying to your letter of November 6, I desire to call your attention to my letter of October 20, and the reply made by William Loeb, Jr., secretary to yourself, that in the event my reply should find its way to the general public, they will have the entire correspondence and be better able to view the matter from an intelligent standpoint.

"The following is a true copy of my letter to you which you referred to in your answer of November 6, 1908. Following this is a true copy of the answer given by your secretary, William Loeb, Jr.

## The Previous Letter

"Dayton, O., October 20, 1908.—Mr. Theodore Roosevelt, President of the United States, Washington, D. C.—Dear Sir: While it is claimed almost universally that religion should not enter into politics, yet there is no denying that it does, and the mass of the voters that are not Catholics will not support a man for any office, especially for president of the United States, who is a Roman Catholic.

"Since Taft has been nominated for president by the republican party, it is being circulated and is constantly being urged as the reason for not voting for Taft that he is an infidel and his wife and brother Roman Catholics. While it is not an easy matter to correct a thing of this kind without perhaps making enemies, we are granted the right to worship God according to the dictates of our own conscience. But if a man does not believe in God it would be a difficult thing for him to have a conscience. If his feelings are in sympathy with the Roman Catholic church on account of his wife and brother being Catholics, that would be objectionable to a sufficient number of voters to defeat him. On the other hand, if he is an infidel, that would be sure to mean defeat.

"It strikes me that any man who is deserving of the highest and most responsible office in the world should not hesitate to let the world know his views on so important a question. If your excellency knows his belief it should be made known by you or by Mr. Taft himself, that such questions as these should not lead any voter astray or cause him to vote differently than he would if he knew the facts. No man should lose or gain a vote by being misrepresented.

"I am writing this letter for the sole purpose of giving Mr. Taft an opportunity to let the world know what his religious belief is.

"In a conversation with about fifty gentlemen last evening, it was claimed by at least half of them that his sympathy was all with the Roman Catholic church and that more than twenty millions of dollars had been used in purchasing property in the Philippines which, through the influence of Mr. Taft, was turned over to the pope.

"If your honor feels that this is a matter of sufficient weight to demand a public declaration and that it would be a consistent thing to do, I would be very glad, indeed, with thousands of others, to know the facts relative to the subject matters mentioned in this short article. If, on the other hand, it is not consid-

ered wise or prudent to touch on this subject, let this letter follow thousands of others, to the waste basket.

"Very respectfully,  
"J. C. MARTIN."

## The President's Response

"The White House, Washington, October 22, 1908.—My Dear Sir: Your letter of the 20th instant has been received. The statement that Mr. Taft's wife and brothers are Catholics is a ridiculous falsehood, which every man making or repeating it either knows or ought to know to be a falsehood.

"I enclose for your information copy of a letter addressed by Bishop Hartzell of the Methodist Episcopal church, to an official of that church, which explains itself.

"Very truly yours,

"WILLIAM LOEB, JR.

"Secretary to the President.

"Mr. J. C. Martin, corner Fourth and Jefferson Streets, Dayton, O.

## Mr. Martin Comments

"Now, Mr. President, the public is already familiar with the more extended reply which you saw fit to make under date of November 6. The statements of that letter seem to me to demand some further recognition. Allow me, therefore, to call your attention to the following, in answer to your accusation of slander and bigotry; also to your assertion, Taft's religion is purely his own private concern, a matter between him and his Maker, a matter for his own conscience. Let us see about this.

"You begin your letter saying you received many such letters during the campaign expressing dissatisfaction with Mr. Taft on religious grounds; then go on to say that you postponed answering during the campaign as you regarded it an outrage even to agitate such a question as a man's religion during a political

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